

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 4-7, 9, 12, 14-17, 19, 21, 34-39, 43-47, 49, 50, 60, 63, 69, 71-73, 75, 86, 113, 119, 121-126, and 128-133 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 18, 20, 40-42, 114-116, and 127 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 4, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 37, 43-47, 49, 50, 113, 119, 121-124, and 126 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

New Declarations

In Item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Declaration as signed by inventors Yates Jr. and Ramesh as being defective. Enclosed herewith is a new Declaration signed by inventor Yates Jr. A Petition is being filed concurrently herewith to correct the name of inventor Ramesh.

Microfiche Appendix

In Item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the microfiche appendix as filed with the application. The reference to the microfiche appendix has been removed from the specification.

Incorporation by Reference

In Items 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the subject matter incorporated by reference.

Applicants have amended the specification to remove the incorporation by reference to the related U.S. patent applications on page 1 and to the publications listed on page 143 of the specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 34–36, 60, 63, 69, 71–73, 75, and 86 contain allowable subject matter, and that claims 20, 48, and 127 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 20 and intervening claims 10 and 18.

Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 48 and intervening claims 40–42.

Claim 113 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 127 and intervening claims 114–116.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 4, 9, 10, 14–18, 21, 37, 40–45, 47, 49, 50, 113–116, 119, 121, 123–126, and 133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,452,456 to Mourey et al. (hereinafter “Mourey”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1–3, 5–7, 11, 12, 19, 38, 39, 46, 122, and 128–132 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,452,456 to Mourey et al. (hereinafter “Mourey”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,854,913 to Goetz et al. (hereinafter “Goetz”).

Because the claims as amended either now contain allowable subject matter or have been already indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, no comments on the cited references are needed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

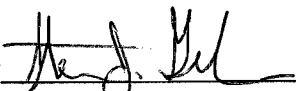
If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner’s convenience.

Applicant: Yates Jr. et al.
Application No.: 09/385,394

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Yates Jr. et al.

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Enclosures